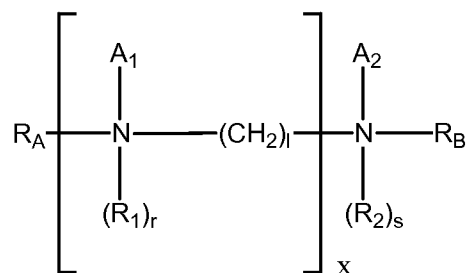


Listing of the Claims

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), please amend the claims as follows: this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound or polycation having the formula:



or salt thereof where:

x is an integer ranging from 1 to about 20;

l is an integer ranging from 1 to about 6;

r and s, independently of one another, are 0 or 1, wherein when r is 1, the N bonded to R₁ and A₁ has a positive charge, and when s is 1, the N bonded to R₂ and A₂ has a positive charge;

R_A and R_B, independently of one another, are selected from the group consisting of H, or an alkyl, hydroalkyl or thiol-substituted alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

~~R₁~~R₁ and ~~R₂~~R₂, independently of one another, are selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; and

~~A₁~~A₁ and ~~A₂~~A₂, independently of other ~~A₁~~A₁ and ~~A₂~~A₂ groups, are selected from the group consisting of a -CH(D-L)₂ and a -C(D-L)₃ group wherein D is selected from the

group consisting of $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{CO}_2-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-\text{N}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{N}-$, $-\text{O}-$, and $-\text{S}-$, and L is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a straight chain or branched alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group having from 2 to about 22 carbon atoms wherein one or more non-neighboring $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups can be replaced with an O or S atom;
 - (b) a substituted straight chain or branched alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group having from 2 to about 22 carbon atoms wherein the substituent is an aromatic, alicyclic heterocyclic or polycyclic ring and wherein one or more of the non-neighboring $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups of said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group can be substituted with an O or S atom; and
 - (c) an aromatic, alicyclic, heterocyclic and a polycyclic ring moiety.
2. (Previously presented) The compound or polycation of claim 1 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of a straight chain or branched alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group having from 2 to about 22 carbon atoms wherein one or more non-neighboring $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups can be replaced with an O or S atom.
3. (Previously presented) The compound or polycation of claim 1 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of a substituted straight chain or branched alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group having from 2 to about 22 carbon atoms wherein the substituent is an aromatic, alicyclic heterocyclic or polycyclic ring and wherein one or more of the non-neighboring $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups of said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group can be substituted with an O or S atom.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) A lipid aggregate which comprises one or more compounds of claim 1.
- 6-20. (Canceled)